

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

DATE: 17 July 1952

SUBJECT: Proposed Project for Preparation of Chinese Language Training Material

REF. : Memo dated 16 May 1952 from Director of Training to AD's RR, OO, CI, SO and PC, same subject.

1. At 14:00 this date in Room 115, North Building, a meeting held by Colonel Baird to discuss subject was attended by [redacted] Chief, Language Services Division, OTR; Messrs. L.E. Stevens and [redacted] Plans and Policy Staff, OTR; Messrs. J.J. Bagnall and [redacted] OO.

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2. Colonel Baird, who was absent during part of the meeting, indorsed as very sound the suggestions of Mr. Bagnall, the following agreed upon by the meeting as action to be undertaken on subject program:

a. Training materials. OTR will request OCD to assemble (via OO/C from various universities) existing Chinese training materials. Subsequently FDD will evaluate the assembled materials specifically for OTR's purpose. If available texts are found inadequate for the contemplated two-year training of linguists competent to "scan" Chinese newspapers and periodicals, OTR will, in accordance with Reference, proceed to contract with Georgetown University for suitable training materials (estimated cost \$4,000, 30 months to complete).

b. Training. OTR will develop training program to meet Agency needs.

c. Trainees. As participants in the Career Training Program, when trainees have completed the two-year course they will be assigned to FDD for "post-graduate" practical experience translating and exploiting Chinese documents of intelligence interest under the guidance of FDD Far East Branch experts.

3. It is pointed out that 2. c. above will at least partly prevent the diffusion of effort which would result from dispersing these linguists piecemeal throughout the Agency.

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Director of Training

Assistant Director for Operations

Proposed Project for the Preparation of Chinese Language Training Material

REF. : Your memo for Assistant Directors RR, OO, CI, SO, and PC, dated 16 May 1952, same subject as above.

1. The proposal at the meeting 28 May 1952 following reference memo, was to subsidize the development of materials with which to conduct a Chinese language training program. A period of $2\frac{1}{2}$ years was estimated as necessary for this collection period after which two-year courses could be given for the training of Chinese linguists. The stated need for such a program was that current Chinese publications are a primary source of information.

2. The mission of Foreign Documents Division of this Office is the exploitation of such publications and its Chinese linguists are now covering this material for CIA offices. FDD believes that a minimum of 3500 hours is necessary in order to master the language sufficiently to accurately read a newspaper. I believe therefore, that $1\frac{1}{2}$ years spent in producing the first linguists of limited capabilities is uneconomical. 450.000

3. The suggested program would be of no benefit to the Office of Operations as FDD's complement of Chinese linguists is full and recruitment prospects for qualified linguists in case of an expanded effort seem to be good.

4. I do not believe the program as suggested has merit. If you determine that there is a real need for training officers of other CIA offices in the Chinese language, I suggest the detailing of those with an elementary knowledge of the language to FDD for a period of six months to a year where they could get practical training under professional supervision while working with source material pertinent to and desired by their respective offices.

GEORGE G. CAREY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

28 May 1952

SUBJECT: Proposed Chinese Language Training Program - O/TR

Attended at 1000 this date a meeting in Room 1310 "I" Building conducted by [] Chief, Language Services Division, on this subject. The proposal is to develop, through subsidy, materials with which to conduct a language training program requiring two years instruction. It will take $2\frac{1}{2}$ years to develop the training material. The stated need for the training project is that current Chinese newspapers and periodicals published in China are a primary source of information and that there is need for training agency personnel to read these Chinese publications. I brought up the point that it is FDD's function at the present time to read these materials for the various offices; secondly, there is a program being developed by Harvard and California to produce a summary or digest on current Chinese materials; thirdly, the availability of material for the future will depend in large part upon capabilities of covert operations. I questioned the practicability of the program on the basis of particularly point 1 above and the availability and pertinence of sending specialists from the various offices off on a two-year training program. I offered as an alternative that if the offices had personnel who had an elementary command of the language and for whom it was decided that they should attain competency in the Chinese language, that they detail these people to FDD for a period of six months to a year where they could get practical training under professional supervision and at the same time be working with material pertinent and desired by their own offices. Unfortunately, I had to leave before the end of the meeting and so cannot report any conclusions or what the final outcome was.

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As a postscript I should like to add that the proposed alternative is a serious one and one which I think is most practicable and which offers an intelligent course of action to attain the needs or objectives stated.

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/ J. J. BAGNALL
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S-E-C-R-E-T
Security Information

16 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Directors, T/SS, O/RR, O/CI, O/CD, O/O, O/SO
and O/PC

FROM : Director of Training

SUBJECT : Proposed Project for the preparation of Chinese Language
Training Material

1. The attached proposal is submitted for your review and consideration. I wish to determine whether Agency needs justify such a project and if so to set it up officially in order that effective language training may be conducted to meet your needs in the field indicated.

2. I should appreciate your reply on these points:

- a. The validity of the project in terms of your requirements.
- b. An estimate of the probable number of your personnel for whom you would want the proposed kind of Chinese Language training.
- c. Your concurrence or non-concurrence in this project, or suggested modifications.

3. In order to help you resolve this problem the Office of Training is convening a meeting in Room 1310, "I" Building, on Wednesday, 28 May, at 1000 hours. At this meeting we will answer questions and present an example of the caliber of work produced in this field by the Chinese language scholar under whose direction this project would be conducted. Any questions prior to this meeting should be referred to Chief, Language Services Division, Office of Training,

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4. Will you please send a representative to this meeting of 28 May. Your official reply, requested in paragraph 2 above, will be appreciated as near as practicable after this meeting.

/s/
MATTHEW BAIRD

Attachment - Proposed Project

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PROPOSED PROJECT FOR THE PREPARATION OF CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAINING MATERIAL

SUMMARY:

The Office of Training is considering support of the cost of research and composition involved in the preparation of special Chinese texts for language instruction at the introductory and intermediate levels. The objective would be to have trainees achieve reading proficiency in the newspaper and periodical fields, with emphasis on the characters required in specialized terminologies. The text material available at present is inadequate to attain this objective and the project cannot be self-sustained. A subsidy of approximately \$15,000 would be required for the preparation of material which would be adequate for the conduct of two years of intensive training and would be suited to a practical objective of definite value to the Agency.

THE PROJECT:

Needs:

It is assumed that for the calculable future a primary source of information or intelligence on China will be derived from the perusal of current newspapers and periodicals published within that country. The effective use of these sources of information will require skill and competence in reading current Chinese texts. The daily and weekly newspapers in Communist China present special difficulties to an American trained in the Chinese language because of the emerging new terminology which they contain and the new topics, primarily in the social sciences, with which they deal.

It has been ascertained that the material now used in universities where the Chinese language is taught comprise the usual literary texts suited to the attainment of reading competence in the literary field. Because of the nature of the Chinese language, which requires the learning of individual symbols for different concepts, students of Chinese who have learned to read on the basis of the training texts now available are not able to handle the literary characters of the current newspaper style.

/s/
MATTHEW BAIRD

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Proposal:

It is proposed to contract with the Institute of Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University, to have them undertake the research and composition involved in the production of two series of training texts in Chinese at the Introductory and Intermediate levels. The specific objective of these training texts--competent reading skill at the newspaper and periodical level, with emphasis on the social sciences--would be stipulated. The method of presentation, the approximate total number of characters to be covered, the various fields to be studied, all would be defined in the contract.

The intermediate reading drills would be prepared to include material containing area data. The texts could be utilized as a basis for development of skill in the spoken language.

This material would become available to the Agency as it is produced and it is expected that the project would be completed in about 30 months.

The contract could stipulate that the manuscripts would be published with the financial support of the University to the extent of \$4,000.

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FORM NO. 55-5
NOV. 1950

Date 23/5/52.

INTERNAL ROUTING AND RECORD SLIP
Office of Operations

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REMARKS:

REMARKS: Reference TP 4, do you want FDD [redacted] or her ^{STAT} designee (I reckon) to go to O/TR's 28 May meeting to discuss the proposed contract with Georgetown for development of training texts in Chinese ("reading skill at newspaper & periodical level")? PSL.

Please note assumption, first

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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copy of TR's memo is in FDD.

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REMARKS: 1. With reference to Para 4 of attached memorandum, it is requested that FDD be represented at O/TR's 28 May meeting to discuss the proposed Chinese training texts. Please inform this Office by 27 May of the name of the individual you wish to attend.

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2. Also request that draft AD/O reply, in
accordance with Para 2, be furnished this Office —
~~by 27 May.~~

following the meeting.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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copy of O/TR's in FDD
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REMARKS: Forwarded for information only. An FDD representative probably will attend O/TR's 28 May meeting to discuss the proposed Georgetown contract for development of Chinese language training texts.

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